

Lee Heron is one of Lake Boon's patrol officers. As a member of the LBC he manages patrolling of Lake Boon for both the LBC patrol boat and the Stow Police patrol boat. The Stow Police boat is also manned by Stow police officers. The goal is to ensure safety and enforce regulations on the lake. All power boats are required to be registered; the state Environmental police and our patrol officers will enforce registration requirements.

Boat owners are responsible for their boats at all times, regardless of who is driving their boat. Every summer we stop many boats for minor violations resulting in tickets and fines. We have a zero tolerance policy for safety violations; if a boat is stopped for safety violations it will be ticketed.

The rules are posted at the launch site or available on line from the Stow town website. State rules are on line as well at Mass.gov. If you send Conray Wharff an e-mail at the address below, he will send you a copy of the rules.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with ongoing lake management projects. If you are interested, please contact us via your Town Offices or send e-mail to Conray Wharff at cwharff@comcast.net

Respectfully submitted,

Conray Wharff, Hudson, Chair
Cindy Curley, Stow

Lee Heron, Stow

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

In 2010, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environment offered communities with recently completed Open Space and Recreation Plans (OSRP) the opportunity to extend their plans two additional years. The Town of Stow applied for an extension of its 2008 plan and the extension was accepted. This will allow Stow to participate in Massachusetts Department of Conservation Services grants through September 2014.

Also in 2010, the Open Space Committee completed a review of property evaluation criteria. These criteria (outlined in the OSRP) include natural resources such as water, habitat, and soils, as well as cultural resources, such as scenic landscape, state heritage landscapes, and recreational trails. By comparing these resources with the existing land protection in Stow, the committee will be in a better position to make recommendations to the town when potential open space lands become available.

In 2010 Stow's Chapter 61 Quick Response Team began operating. This group, made up of representatives from seven town boards and committees, has developed a standard report to quickly orient town officials regarding properties which the town may exercise Right-of-First-Refusal on, as part of the Chapter 61 tax abatement program.

Because of the time limitations associated with this right, information on such properties is needed quickly in order for the town to make intelligent decisions on whether to pursue them for open space or municipal use. The design and contents of this type of report will be finalized in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Vin Antil, Chair
Eve Donahue
Bill Maxfield

Brian J. Mulcahy
Chris Rodstrom

RECREATION COMMISSION

This past year has been exciting and eventful for the Recreation Commission. The Commission is very excited that Stow Community Park is nearly complete and we were able to open to the community in the spring of 2010. The new recreational facility is a great addition to Stow. The playground that is the final phase of the project is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2011. Town-wide brochures are distributed throughout the year, highlighting the many new programs that have been established as well as the existing programs. The fourth annual Stow Gobbler road race was even more successful than last year, with over 800 participants walking or running the race on Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to the Hurd and Allaire families, volunteers, and sponsors for making this race such a success.

The Recreation Commission is dedicated to providing town-wide programming for all ages. During the past year the Recreation Commission has outlined its short- and long-term goals and the steps needed to achieve success. The Commission is excited about the possibilities that can be accomplished in the years ahead to make recreation in Stow an important ingredient to maintaining and improving the quality of life. The Commission would like to encourage others within the community to participate, either as an associate member or to assist in the development and implementation of programs. Also, please feel free to bring any issues or ideas to the Commission. We would welcome your input. Thanks to all the workers and volunteers who helped with the programs throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Busch, Chairperson
Robert Braceland
John Sangermano
Tim Allaire

Josh Schiering

Laura Greenough, Recreation Director

SPRINGFEST COMMITTEE

It was the Springfest Committee's distinct privilege and pleasure to celebrate all that is wonderful about our town with a weekend of family-friendly activities May 14-16, 2010.